Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: BEXP, GB

SUBJ: SANTA CLARA MINERAL PORT

REF: (A) STATE 068717; (B) STATE 068904

- 1. CHARGE TELEPHONED MINISTER OF STATE RAWIRI APRIL 2 TO FOLLOW UP ON REFTELS. (FYI: TRANSLATION OF SUMMARY OF SOROS/RAWIRI LETTER (REF A) DELIVERED TO RAWIRI MARCH 29. ALSO PRESIDENT BONGO AND PARTY DID NOT REPEAT NOT MAKE KUWAIT-PERSIAN GULF TRIP AS EARLIER PLANNED DUE TO DEATH OF KING FAISAL.)
- 2. RAWIRI WHO WITH MOSTLYGABONESE OFFICIALS HAD SPENT LONG EASTER WEEKEND OUTSIDE OF LIBREVILLE SAID HE WOULD BE MEETING SOMETIME APRIL 2 WITH PRESIDENT BONGO AND WOULD WISH TO PASS ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON SOROS CONTRACT. CHARGE, DRAWING ON REF B, NOTED SOROS READINESS COME TO LIBREVILLE AND/OR MEET WITH GOG OFFICIALS IN PARIS (PARAS 2 AND 3 REF B).
- 3. CHARGE ALSO REITERATED POINT MADE IN EARLIER LETTER THAT SOROS READY TO RECEIVE GABONESE IN NEW YORK AND EMPHASIZED THAT SIGNING PORT DESIGN/ENGINEERING CONTRACT WITH SOROS PRIOR TO MAKING DECISION RE CONSTRUCTORS OR SUPPLIERS IS IN ULTIMATE BEST INTERESTS OF GOG.
- 4. RAWIRI APPRECIATED SOROS CONTINUED INTEREST AND EMBASSY ASSISTANCE AND ASKED THAT HE BE GIVEN LETTER SUMMARIZING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POINTS MADE BY CHARGE.

5. REQUESTED LETTER WILL BE DELIVERED TO RAWIRI APRIL 2 AND HOPEFULLY WE WILL HAVE MORE INFORMATION FOR SOROS BY THE END OF THE WEEK.

6. FYI: PRESIDENT BONGO NOW SCHEDULED TO DEPART LIBREVILLE APRIL 4 OR 5 FOR YUGOSLAVIA AND PERHAPS ROMANIA WITH ESTIMATED DATE OF RETURN TO LIBREVILLE VERY TENTATIVELY SET AS APRIL 9-11. DATES BONGO OR OTHER APPROPRIATE GOG OFFICIALS WILL BE IN LIBREVILLE AND/OR PARIS IS OF COURSE SOMETHING RAWIRI WILL CONFIRM FOR US AND WHICH WE WILL PASS ON TO SOROS.COUNTRYMAN

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